

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – JANUARY 13, 2016
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Natnael Adere	Julie Crawford	Mike Mackey
Councilman Will Bailey	Rose Dawson	Tammy Mann
Robin Blair	Kate Garvey	Gwen Mullen
Gisselle Brown	Ramee Gentry	Brian Orrenmaa
Councilman John Chapman	Gwendolyn Lewis	Joyce Rawlings
William Chesley	Melissa Little	Kendallee Walker

Excused Absent

Ronnie Campbell	Sonia Price	Eric Williams
J. Glenn Hopkins	Michael Suppa	

Unexcused Absent

Gerald Mann	Carlos Suber
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Staff

Jacqueline Coachman	Carol Farrell	Jonathan Leonberger
Barbara Farrington	Ron Frazier	Deborah Warren

Guests

Jenay Barbee	Rich Hart	Merita Irby
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WELCOME

Chair Tammy Mann opened the meeting with introductions of the new CYFCC commissioners: Councilman Will Bailey, Ramee Gentry of the School Board, Robin Blair, and Melissa Little. Other new board members are Joseph Suppa and School Board Member Ronnie Campbell, both of whom were unable to attend due to prior commitments. Also introduced were Merita Irby and Jenay Barbee of The Forum for Youth Investment, consultants who will be facilitating the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) implementation process. As explained by Ms. Irby, the objective of the next phase is to move from planning to action.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT DECEMBER MINUTES

There being no revisions or additions to the draft December minutes, Mike Mackey moved approval. The motion was seconded by Gisselle Brown and approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Helen McIlvaine, Director, Office on Housing, began the presentation with the acknowledgment that average wages are not keeping pace with the cost of living. The greatest need is housing for those with household incomes below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) -- the bulk of new jobs are projected to be in economic sectors associated with low wages, such as the Hospitality industry. The previous focus was housing for those with incomes at 60% of AMI. But these units

are not affordable to many households at 40-50% AMI. Eight hundred committed affordable and workforce units are coming online for households at 40-70% AMI. The City has committed \$200 million and in accordance with the 2013 Housing Master Plan, the goal is to make affordable housing available throughout the City. Numerous collaborative relationships have been established in support of that goal. Rebuilding Together partnered with the Office on Housing to purchase and rehab foreclosed homes. An opportunity being explored is the co-location of schools and housing. By way of example, the Fire Station at Potomac Yards has 64 affordable units.

While there were 15,000 on the wait list just a few years ago, currently 5,000 are waiting for ARHA units/vouchers. ARHA is rehabbing some of its housing stock and simultaneously incorporating market rate housing. Rental rights and responsibilities are another focus of the Office on Housing – rental units comprise half of the housing stock. Resources of the Office on Housing include an apartment survey that documents rental costs as well as staff assistance with the search for affordable housing. Staff of the office speak several languages and interpretation services are available. A guide to the services and resources of Housing is to be published in several languages. The website of the Office on Housing features a listing of all affordable opportunities and an email alert is used to advertise new opportunities.

A question considered by CYFCC was what it can do to elevate this issue. It was agreed CYFCC can be an advocate for affordable housing as well as work to broaden access to housing vouchers. A one-pager prepared by the Office on Housing could greatly facilitate those tasks. In addition, information regarding affordable housing meetings and hearings will be routinely sent to commissioners to inform them of opportunities to advocate for affordable housing. Councilman Will Bailey stated strong representation at such events is imperative. Another possibility is CYFCC working with the Office on Housing to broaden access to the private rental market.

PLANNING NEXT STEPS FOR TWO COMMISSION-SELECTED PRIORITIES

The priorities CYFCC selected for the coming year are affordable housing and equity. Commissioners were asked to develop strategies that CYFCC can use to foster forward movement on those priorities. The report to be prepared by The Forum for Youth Investment will outline what can be realistically achieved over the next year. Joyce Rawlings advised those priorities not be the focus to the exclusion of others, such as 16 to 24 year-olds who cannot afford housing. The response of Gwen Mullen was equity is an umbrella that can cover 16-24 year-olds as well as middle schools. Councilman John Chapman noted a number of concerns can be grouped in broad categories. While the priorities of affordable housing and equity will be the focus for one year, the concerns of Ms. Rawlings are long-term and structural.

Chair Mann stated the Children & Youth Master Plan will be moving forward in an aggressive way in the spring. To that end, Jonathan Leonberger is updating the *Profile of Youth Well-Being*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance will meet later in the month and is in need of a chair. The Advocacy Committee is proceeding with the structured agenda approved by CYFCC. Research is continuing its efforts to devise plans to solicit youth input on the identified priorities.

Membership Committee will be contacting new members regarding committee assignments. In addition, two appointments have expired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An event celebrating National Mentoring Month will take place on January 20. The launch of the Alexandria Youth Council is scheduled for January 26. The focus of the Best Practice Court Brown Bag Lunch on January 28 will be services for immigrants as well as such topics as reunification and trauma. A meeting of stakeholders in the Mayor's Campaign Against Bullying will be held on February 16.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.